THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, the downward revision was done in view of the trend of shortfall in the overall passenger earnings to end of November, 2003.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Recruitment and Promotions in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. Dubri

1743. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as provided in the Constitution in favour of SCs and STs is being implemented in recruitment and promotions in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. Dubri, in the district of Jajpur, Orissa;

(b) whether rosters are also being properly maintained for the purpose;

(c) if so, the number of persons of all categories recruited and promoted in Neelachal Ispat Nigam, category-wise, during the last three years and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them; and

(d) the reasons for the shortfall in the number of SCs and STs and the steps taken to fill up the quota reserved for them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The company is not implementing the reservation policy in respect of SC/STs, as it is not a Government company. However, category-wise details of SC/ST employees in relation to total employee strength in Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) as on date is given below:-

Category	Total Employees	Of which		(Number) Total	%'of Total
		SC	ST		
D	116	9	64	73	62.93
C	715	6	21	27	3.77
B&A	273	2	NIL	2	0.73

(d) It has been informed by NINL that it is not a Government company

under Section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956. It is a joint venture company promoted by MMTC Ltd. a Central PSU, and Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL), which is a State PSU. Further, at the project appraisal stage, the company was intended to be a joint venture company with majority of private sector holding. The company has a unique structure of equity holding with equity being held by several PSUs, both Central and State. The equity structure is also yet to finally stabilize. In view of the above and the substantial holdings and management control by MMTC Ltd. in NINL, MMTC Ltd. has been advised to seek suitable directions from Department of Personnel and Training through their Administrative Ministry, as to whether provisions relating to reservation forSC/ST candidates are applicable in a company like NINL.

Wage Revision of KIOCL

1744. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kudremukh Iron-Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) is a 100 per cent export oriented and profit making 'Mini Ratna' Company;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Officers Cadre of KIOCL have requested for wage revision and anomaly correction;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that assurance given to KIOCL officers during their last pay revision of maintaining pay parity beteen KIOCL officers and their counterparts in other PSUs has not been implemented; and

(e) if so, by when the required pay revision would bccarried out?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Officers Association of KIOCL has requested for correction of anomalies in their pay scales to bring them on par with other similar Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Steel. The Management of KIOCL had assured the Association at the time of wage agreement that KIOCL will consider adoption of comparative scales of other similarly placed PSUs if their pay scales were superior to those of KIOCL Executives.

12.00 Noon